Five killed in Panjgur, Jhal Magsi attacks

By Behram Baloch and Ali Jan Mangi

GWADAR/DERA MURAD JAMALI: Five people were killed and one was injured in two armed attacks in Panjgur and Jhal Magsi districts on Thursday.

According to police, some unidentified armed men barged into the house of Zahid, an allegedly pro-government person in the Gwargo area of Panjgur, and opened indiscriminate fire on the people sleeping there, killing three of them on the spot and injuring one.

"The house owner Zahid was killed on the spot along with two other people staying in his home as they suffered multiple bullet injuries," a senior police officer said.

Soon after receiving information, police rushed to the area and shifted bodies of the deceased and the injured to district hospital.

Doctors at the hospital said all the three people suffered bullet injuries from a close range, causing their instant death.

Besides house owner Zahid, two other victims who lost their lives were identified as Muhammad Yousaf and Jasim. The injured was identified as Abdul Qudoos.

Bodies of the deceased were handed over to their family members after completion of legal formalities. Police are investigating the incident. No one has claimed responsibility for the killing so far.

In another firing incident, two people were killed in Jhal Magsi area. According to police, the incident took place at the Nawabzada Magsi Road area where some armed men opened fire on two people travelling on motorcycle.

The armed men fired multiple bullets, killing both motorcyclists on the spot. The attackers escaped from the area after the incident.

Police shifted bodies of the victims to district hospital where the deceased were identified as Abdul Sattar Khosa and Allah Bakhsh Khosa. Later, their bodies were handed over to their families.

The cause of the killing was not known.

Police have set up checkpoints in the area and launched a search operation to arrest the assailants.

ISLAMABAD: A reflection of Faisal Masjid is seen in accumulated rainwater.—APP

Sibi bomb blast leaves one dead, five injured

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: One person was killed and five others were injured in a bomb blast in Sibi town on Thursday.

Police officials said that some unknown miscreants had planted an improvised explosive device in Chanki Chowk area close to Girls Degree College, which went off, killing a man who was passing through the area.

As a result of the powerful blast, five passersby were injured. Soon after the explosion, police reached the area and shifted the body of Wafa Khan and the injured to Sibi district hospital.

Police said it was not known what was the target of the IED blast. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

'Drone swarms' tested KP police limits in 2025

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district alone during the past year, followed by 21 in Bajaur, while 34 such drones targeted forces in North and South Waziristan. "The figure may be higher but since there is no data available… (the number shared above) is just a count, not an officially verified document," a senior officer said.

Former additional inspector general Akhtar Ali Shah said the militant groups had changed their strategy to capitalise on readily available quadcopters and carry out attacks. Their use of drones showed that the law enforcement agencies were no longer the "sole masters" of the sky.

However, a senior official believed that their anti-drone system was a significant improvement in countering such attacks. Officials from the police department, on condition of anonymity, said countering this type of drone warfare was manageable, albeit difficult.

According to an officer, they can successfully repel drone attacks, but the police cannot simultaneously take on militants on the ground as well as fend off the drones. Officials said Bannu Miryan, Haved, Daud Shah, Mamand Khel, Domel, and Bargnatu and villages adjacent to the Bannu cantonment are some of the spots under constant attack.

In a statement issued by the office of Bannu Regional Police Officer Sajjad Khan, militants carried out 20 drone attacks targeting police installations and civilian populations, in which 19 police personnel were injured, while nine civilians were martyred and 33 were injured.

However, following the installation of an anti-drone system on July 18, a significant improvement was observed, with over 300 drone attacks thwarted and four drones neutralised.

"Technology can be countered with technology only," another senior official privy to developments in Bannu, told *Dawn*. According to him, drones give an edge to militants but at the same time, provide the forces an opportunity to identify the militants' base since the operators are always in the vicinity.

As drone use for surveillance and attacks grows in number, officials believe that the latest technology and structural changes are key to counter this threat. For instance, the militants always deploy surveillance drones before attacking and if all the open areas in the government installations are camouflaged, they will not be able to gather intel, they said. Besides this, the authorities will install anti-drone technology to deter such incursions.

70pc of all households have internet access: survey

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Sindh was the lowest at 67pc.

Household ownership of mobile phones or smartphones edged up from 95pc to 96pc, with Balochistan at 98pc and Sindh again trailing at 95pc.

At the individual level, internet use surged from 17pc to 57pc, with KP reporting the highest rate (56pc) and Balochistan the lowest (43pc). Individual ownership of mobile phones or smartphones rose from 45pc to 50pc, peaking at 51pc in KP and falling to 42pc in Balochistan. The survey also recorded a gender gap in individual ownership: 69pc among men and 31pc among women.

Mobile or smartphone usage stood at 92pc compared to 91pc in 2018-19, with Punjab at 92pc and Balochistan at 82pc. The survey said gender parity in digital access had improved nationally to 57pc, though rural female access in Balochistan remained the lowest at 28pc, up from 2pc in 2018-19.

Housing, water, sanitation

The use of clean fuels — including natural gas, LPG, biogas, solar energy and electricity — for cooking, heating and lighting rose from 35pc to 38pc.

Access to tap water increased from 18pc to 22pc, while the use of filtration plants in households rose from 9pc to 10pc.

Sanitation indicators also improved, with access to flush toilets rising from 80pc to 89pc — 98pc in urban areas and 82pc in rural areas. Households without toilet facilities declined from 12pc to 7pc.

According to the survey, hybrid lighting at 11pc and solar-only lighting at 7pc, with overall household lighting access at 96pc.

Income and consumption

The survey reported a nominal rise of 97.81pc in average household income, from Rs41,545 to Rs82,179, while household consumption rose by 113pc, from Rs37,159 to Rs79,150.

Food accounted for 37pc of household consumption, followed by housing and fuel (26pc). Other major expenditure categories included restaurants and hotels (6.63pc), clothing and footwear (6.28pc) and transport (6.21pc).

Population welfare

The country's total fertility rate declined to 3.6 births per woman in 2024-25 from 3.7 in 2018-19. The contraceptive prevalence rate rose to 38pc from 34pc, with Punjab the highest at 43pc and Balochistan the lowest at 22pc.

The proportion of women aged 15-49 making informed decisions about contraceptive use and reproductive healthcare increased to 56pc from 53pc, while the adolescent birth rate among girls aged 15-19 fell to 48 per 1,000 women from 54 per 1,000 in 2018-19.

Health

The survey reported improvements in key health indicators. The neonatal mortality rate declined from 41 to 35 per 1,000 live births, while the infant mortality rate fell from 60 to 47 per 1,000 live births.

Record-based full immunisation coverage rose from 68pc to 73pc, with Punjab highest at 79pc and Balochistan lowest at 54pc. Prenatal consultation rates increased from 84pc to 88pc — 96pc in Punjab and 60pc in Balochistan. Deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants rose from 71pc to 84pc, with Punjab at 88pc and Balochistan at 58pc.

Education

The national literacy rate rose to 63pc from 60pc. Punjab recorded the highest rate at 68pc and Balochistan the lowest at 49pc.

The proportion of out-of-school children fell slightly to 28pc, though Balochistan reported the highest rate at 49pc.

Pakistan hopes for diplomatic end to Yemen standoff

Continued from Page 1

on Thursday exchanged lists of nuclear installations and prisoners, a long-standing confidence-building practice that has endured despite unprecedented strains in bilateral ties, which brought relations close to a virtual breakdown.

Mr Andrabi confirmed the exchange, saying: "Today, on 1st January, as per our bilateral agreements, Pakistan and India exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody. Accordingly, the government of Pakistan today handed over a list of 257 Indian prisoners (58 civilians and 199 fishermen) in Pakistan to the High Commission of India in Islamabad."

He said the move was in line with existing bilateral commitments. "This step is consistent with the provisions of the Consular Access Agreement between Pakistan and India, signed on May 21, 2008, under which both countries are required to exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody twice a year, on Jan 1 and July 1, respectively," the spokesman added.

India said it shared information about 391 civilian prisoners and 33 fishermen in its custody who are Pakistani or believed to be Pakistani.

The two sides also exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities, under a separate agreement aimed at reducing the risk of escalation between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

"Also, on Jan 1, Pakistan and India exchange the lists of their respective nuclear installations pursuant to the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India," Mr Andrabi said.

Dulhasti power project

The Foreign Office also urged India to respond to formal queries raised by its Indus Waters Commissioner over India's proposed Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project, saying New Delhi failed to share prior information as required under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty.

Mr Andrabi said Pakistan had not been notified in advance about the project, describing the omission as a breach of international obligations.

"No prior information or notification was shared with Pakistan with regard to this project (Dulhasti State-II Hydroelectric Project) as mandated under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960," he said. "Such acts of commission and omission yet again exemplify a complete disregard of international law."

The Dulhasti hydropower project is located on the Chenab River in the disputed region of India-held Jammu and Kashmir. Its original 390-megawatt, run-of-the-river Stage I plant was commissioned in 2007 and operated for years without major objections from Pakistan. However, concerns have surfaced following India's approval last month of a 260MW Stage II extension.

Mr Andrabi said Pakistan's Indus Waters Commissioner has formally sought details from his Indian counterpart.

Calling for immediate engagement, Mr Andrabi said: "We therefore call upon India to urgently return to treaty compliance and respond to the queries raised by our Indus Waters Commissioner in his latest as well as earlier communications."

He also stressed that Pakistan considers the treaty legally binding despite India's position.

HAZECO CORRIGENDUM

Hiring of Contractor/Firm for Provision of Skilled / Semi-Skilled Labour
Tender No. HR-01-2025

HAZECO invites the attention of all prospective bidders to the Tender Notice (ADPR-20) published in the press on 28 December 2025 regarding Tender No. HR-01-2025 for the hiring of Contractor/Firm for provision of Skilled / Semi-Skilled Labour.

It is hereby notified that, following a post-publication review, the Evaluation Criteria (Technical & Financial) contained in the bidding documents have been revised and updated to align with updated procurement requirements, organizational needs, and prevailing market capacity.

Accordingly, a Corrigendum has been issued, and the revised bidding documents have been uploaded on EPADS for information and compliance by all interested bidders.

The revised Evaluation Criteria shall be applicable uniformly to all bidders. All other terms and conditions of the bidding documents shall remain unchanged.

All prospective bidders are advised to visit EPADS to submit their bids strictly in accordance with the revised bidding documents.

Manager (SCM) ADPR-21
HAZECO, Abbottabad
Tel: 0992-920212-13, Email: cso.hazeco@gmail.com

Tahir Ashrafi named coordinator for religious harmony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), the coordinator for religious harmony and for the Pakistani diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim countries.

Hafiz Ashrafi is also a member of the Supreme Council of the Muslim World League and is affiliated with several prominent international and Islamic organisations.

He has held similar positions in previous governments, and the latest appointment comes at a critical time, given the evolving situation in the Muslim world and the strategic importance of Pakistan's relations with Gulf and other Islamic countries.

Previously serving as a special representative, Hafiz Ashrafi brings extensive experience in religious diplomacy, interfaith engagement and international outreach.

A member of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Hafiz Ashrafi and the PUC have been vocal in opposing the misuse of blasphemy laws and in promoting religious harmony across the country.—Kalbe Ali

GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN
Tel: (92-864) **210 595** Website: **www.gda.gov.pk**

(SITUATION VACANT)
(ON CONTRACT BASIS) for
GDA PUBLIC HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL GWADAR

Applications are invited from qualified, experienced, and result oriented candidates (male/female) on open merit for the following positions purely on contract for a period of (1) year. Preference will be given to candidates belonging to Balochistan Province. An Excellent opportunity awaits for competent and committed professional to be a part of the Institution – The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Public Higher Secondary School at Gwadar. The eligibility criteria/detail as mentioned against each position: -

S#	Name of Post & Qualification	BPS	No. of Posts
01	**ADMIN OFFICER (Male)** ایڈمن آفیسر MPA/MBA (at least 2nd Div) preferably masters in administrative sciences from a recognized University with minimum 3 years experience.	17	01
02	**LECTURER COMPUTER SCIENCE** کمپیوٹرسائنس Masters in Computer Science (at least 2nd Div) from a recognized University, minimum 2 years teaching experience.	17	01
03	**LECTURER BIOLOGY** بائیولوجی Masters in Biology (at least 2nd Div) from a recognized University, minimum 2 years teaching experience.	17	01
04	**LECTURER MATHEMATICS** میتھمیٹکس Masters in mathematics (at least 2nd Div) from a recognized University, minimum 2 years teaching experience.	17	02
05	**LECTURER ISLAMIATE** اسلامیات Masters in Islamiate (at lease 2nd Div) from a recognized University, minimum 2 years teaching experience..	17	01
06	**LECTURER URDU** اردو Masters in Urdu (at least 2nd Div) from a recognized University, minimum 2 years teaching experience.	17	01
07	**LECTURER PHYSICS** فزکس Master's in Physics (at least 2nd Div) from a recognized university with minimum 2 years teaching experience.	17	01

INSTRUCTIONS: -

1. All Candidates are required to submit their Application along with their A**cademic Testimonial** to the Office of the **Deputy Director HR, GDA Marine Drive, Gwadar, Latest by 14th January 2026** along with **Fresh CV, 2 Photographs** and clearly mention their Telephone / Mobile Numbers, Email Address and Postal Address in their C.V / Applications.
2. **Only shortlisted Candidates** will be called for **Written test, Demo** and **Interview**.
3. The candidate **MUST** bring their **Original Documents at the time of Interview.**

TEARMS & CONDITIONS:

i The Contract Period will be for One Year, Extendable on Satisfactory Performance.
ii No TA/DA will be Admissible.
iii The competent authority reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of posts.

NIZAR MUHAMMAD (Deputy Director HR)
Gwadar Development Authority
Contact #: +92(333)2026000 Email: nizar.muhammad@gda.gov.pk